

WILSON RENEWS EFFORTS TO END WAR IN EUROPE

President Calls Together Cab-
inet to Consider Next
Move.

PEACE STILL POSSIBLE

Washington Believes Way Yet
Clear for White House
Mediation.

COL. HOUSE MAY GO ABROAD

His Presence at Conference Yesterday
May Presage Special Mission
to European Rulers.

President Wilson yesterday took steps to resume, with redoubled vigor, his efforts to end the war in Europe. Convinced that the reply of the entente powers to his original peace note by no means precludes further peace proposals on his part, he called together his advisers to consider what form the next move shall take.

At the regular meeting of the Cabinet yesterday the President told the Secretaries that he considered the door to peace negotiations still open. He took up with the Cabinet, and with Col. E. M. House, his closest confidential adviser, the situation developed through the entente peace reply, and the German note to neutrals in response to the entente refusal to consider the direct German peace proposals.

It can be stated on authority that the administration feels that while direct negotiations between the two belligerent groups almost have come to an impasse, the way is still clear for mediatory negotiations through the President.

Next Move in Doubt.
What the President's next move will be has not yet been determined, but it is certain that it will be surrounded by the closest secrecy. The President feels that the open peace discussions through diplomatic notes has reached the limit and that further moves, to be successful, must be done through confidential communications.

As a result, the peace negotiations may now be expected to disappear into the murky and devious depths of secret diplomacy. Col. House, Secretary of State Lansing and the President himself will probably be the only persons informed as to the course of the future peace moves.

The fact that Col. House was called into conference yesterday was looked upon in Washington as a possible indication that the President's confidential adviser might undertake secret peace missions to Europe. Col. House traveled extensively between the capitals of the European belligerents for the President, sounding out peace sentiment, before the President initiated his peace plans. It is certain that the President feels that no one is better qualified to undertake the delicate task of conducting "unofficial" negotiations with either of the groups of belligerents. If the President decides that the direct nature of the peace discussions from now on would better be carried on outside of the regular diplomatic channels, there is no doubt that Col. House will be called upon.

May Wait for Germany.

The President's next peace move may be delayed until Germany has had an opportunity either directly or indirectly to act upon the entente statement of peace terms sent to the President. Whether this statement with the remainder of yesterday's note would be forwarded to the Reichstag, to formally announce the failure of the direct peace proposal of Germany. The Chancellor's speech, diplomatic Washington believes, will once more go into the controversy over who is responsible for the war.

The President's next peace effort may take the form of a move to bring into the open a detailed peace term statement of Germany. With the entente peace terms, as the President's forthrightly to the entente reply to the President, a similar statement from Germany, the administration believes, would do much to clarify the situation. With both sets of peace terms in his hands, no matter how they may differ, the President would be in a position to conduct negotiations in the direction of reconciling the differences.

Diplomats Gloomy.
The optimism in administration circles last night was not reflected among the diplomatic representatives of the belligerent nations. They were inclined to believe that for the present, at least, the peace discussions had been brought to a standstill. The drastic nature of the terms mentioned by the entente allies, and the tenor of the German note charging the entente with the responsibility for continuing the war, were accepted as insurmountable obstacles to continued negotiations at this time.

At the German Embassy, while no formal comment on the situation was forthcoming, it was stated that Germany would "fight for ten years, if she had to live on rye bread alone," rather than accept the proposals laid down in the entente note.

German circles, however, take the view that the entire situation is now up to the President and that he must make the next move, if any is to be made.

Mexican Undertakers Hold Body of American Soldier

Mexican undertakers across the border from Laredo, in defiance of American army officers' requests, hold the body of Corporal John R. Stewart, Company C, Ninth Infantry, and refuse to surrender it until charges they demand are settled.

Ladies Mustn't Smoke 'Em, Oklahoma Solons Decree

Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 12.—The Oklahoma legislature served notice on the world today that it opposes such nefarious things as birth control and cigarette smoking for women.

By unanimous vote a resolution was adopted, congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Keys of Holton, on the birth of quadruplets.

The House of Representatives puts its "O. K." on the bill not only prohibiting the selling of cigarettes and "makings," but on the smoking of a cigarette an offense.

TWO SHIPS SUNK

British Cruiser and Italian Battleship Reported Lost.

(By the International News Service.)

Constantinople, via Berlin and Sayville wires, Jan. 12.—The wrecking of a British cruiser in Port Mers by Turkish gunfire yesterday, was officially announced here today.

The cruiser was of the Juno type. Cruisers of the Juno type range between 5,000 and 6,000 tons, and are equipped with Harvey nickel armor, ten six-inch guns, and eight three-inch guns and several torpedo tubes.

The damaging of a British torpedo boat and a patrol boat of unknown nationality, both of which escaped, also was announced here today.

"On the Caucasian front," said the statement, "we opened a surprise fire against hostile ships in Port Mers. We destroyed by direct hit a British cruiser and a patrol boat. The cruiser had no time to open fire. The wreck of the cruiser is still burning.

"A torpedo boat escaped after one mast was broken by our fire, while a patrol boat of unknown nationality received a direct hit. The patrol boat escaped to the southward, heavily damaged.

Berlin, Jan. 12.—The Swiss newspaper Anzeiger at Basle printed a report today that the Italian battleship Regina Margherita has been sunk by a torpedo or mine with a loss of 900 lives, according to the Overseas News Agency.

The fate of the Regina Margherita has been in doubt for some time. In October she was reported to have been blown up at her docks, but the Italian Admiralty never confirmed the report. The Margherita is a vessel of 13,427 tons, and carried 720 men.

LASS, 16, SCORNS MAN "JILTED BY 40 WOMEN"

Lillian's Ma Had Her Arrested—But
Wedding Bells Won't Chime.

Special to The Washington Herald.

New York, Jan. 12.—"What can a young lass do with an auld man?"

So sang Robert Burns, and the Scottish poet's question has been answered in her own way by Lillian Braddock, 16 years old, of Peabody, N. J., who was returned today from Paterson to her home, after being arrested on the charge of being an incorrigible young person.

It is also charged that she took \$2 of her mother's money when she left home. But Lillian told Capt. McBride, of the Paterson police department, that her mother's money was not the cause of her being returned to her home.

Said she, scornfully:
"The man my mother wants me to marry is 40 years old, is fat and has lost his hair. He limps and he wears green glasses and smokes half the time in church. He's been jilted by forty women who have since died of old age and so far as I'm concerned he can marry any one he likes—except me."

ALL PETS DESTROYED TO STAMP OUT PLAGUE

Grafton Health Authorities Will Eliminate
Dogs, Cats and Toys.

(By the International News Service.)

Clarksville, W. Va., Jan. 12.—The health authorities of Grafton are so determined to stamp out the plague that they have ordered the destruction of all the children's playthings and pets.

So alarming has become the spread of infantile paralysis in the West Virginia town that the health authorities today began the destruction of what they deem disease-carriers. This includes—to the children's horror—all toys, dogs and cats.

Health department officials will make a house to house survey in an effort to destroy all playthings which might become the carrier of disease germs, and the town dog-catcher will enlarge his force in an effort to exterminate canine and feline life.

YO, HO, ONE-LEGGED MEN PLAN "MONOPEDS" CLUB

"Gus" Gumpert, of the Ebbitt, Who's a
"Oner," Arranging Details.

The first official convention of "monopeds" will be held in the next spring when representative one-legged men from all parts of the country will gather at the New Ebbitt to organize the "One-Legged Men's Association of America."

The affair will be strictly exclusive; no one with a plurality of legs will be admitted to the meetings, which will extend over a period of three days.

"Gus" Gumpert, of the New Ebbitt, who looked the convention yesterday, will welcome the guests. Gumpert lost one of his legs while in the service of Uncle Sam's navy.

Most of the delegates, it is said, will be seamen for the different manufacturers of artificial limbs in this country.

The question of supplying the European market with this commodity after the war will be brought up for discussion.

GETS BEDROOM SUITE BY WILL.

New York, Jan. 12.—Under the will of Fida Yolk, who left an estate valued at about \$60,000, Charles Yolk, her husband, a New York architect, gets a bedroom suite.

He may choose any one to his liking among the belongings of the deceased.

GIVES PENSIONS ON GRADED SCALE

Federal Employees' Union
Frames Bill Providing Annuities for 292,000.

A retirement bill providing pensions for 292,000 government employees in the classified service was last night reported to the board of representatives of the Federal Employees' Union by a special committee headed by John S. Beach, appointed to draft retirement legislation.

The bill provides that two per cent per month be deducted from pay envelopes to create the retirement fund. In the classification of employees, four grades have been made and the annuities fixed run from \$150 to \$600 a year.

Will Be Amended Later.

No action was taken on the bill last night because objection was made to the exclusion of employees of the District of Columbia and the Library of Congress. Amendments to include these employees and other changes will be considered by the committee at the next meeting on January 17.

The salient features of the bill follow: It will provide a system of retirement for supernumerary and disabled employees in all branches of the classified civil service, excepting fourth-class postmasters.

It is designed to provide, ultimately, for compulsory retirement at the age of 70 years and for optional retirement at the age of 65 years.

It has a provision for retirement on account of disability.

Amount Limited to \$600.

The amount of annuity is limited to a maximum of \$600 per annum and is graduated in relation to both number of years in the service and average salary during the last ten years of service.

It provides for deductions of 2 per cent from the salary of each employee, limited, however, to \$50 per annum.

The committee has arrived at the conclusion that a partial contributory plan is more likely to receive favorable notice.

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SLEW GIRL-WIFE, 19, "TO KEEP HER PURE"

Pettit Tells Court He Dreamed of
"High Caliber Plane."

(By the International News Service.)

Chicago, Jan. 12.—J. Maurice Pettit, slayer of his 19-year-old bride, Katherine Kaiser, testified in his own defense today that he had dreamed of a "high caliber plane."

"But I loved and worshiped Katherine Kaiser," he cried, "and for her I desired to live on a high caliber plane. When I heard her voice I knew that I wanted her."

Pettit's story was broken frequently by the sobbing of his mother, his first wife, Mrs. Madge Pettit, who testified in his behalf as character witness, and the mother of his victim, who pleaded with the judge not to impose the death sentence after Pettit formally admitted his guilt.

MEXICANS AID FARMERS

IN SEARCH FOR FLYERS

Two San Diego Aviators Believed Lost
Somewhere in Desert.

(By the International News Service.)

El Centro, Cal., Jan. 12.—While 100 Imperial Valley ranchers, their automobiles heavily loaded with provisions, were on their way across the border to hunt Col. Amador, a San Diego aviator, who is believed to be lost somewhere south of Mexicali, today ordered all the Mexican cavalrymen stationed at Mexicali to join in the search.

In addition to these, Col. Cantu sent out five automobiles of Mexican infantrymen to aid the rescue parties and issued orders that American ranchers be permitted to cross the border in any number to hunt the missing men.

Col. Bishop and Lieut. Robertson were last seen about fifty miles south of Mexicali. They left San Diego Wednesday for a flight to Calexico, but are believed to have been lost in a high fog and probably have had engine trouble somewhere in the Mexican desert.

ADMINISTRATION FAILS

TO RUSH RAIL PROGRAM

Retarded by Newlands' Failure to Obtain
Adjournment to Monday.

The administration's efforts to rush through the President's railroad program in the Senate were somewhat retarded yesterday when Senator Newlands, in charge of the legislation, failed in his efforts to have the Senate adjourn over until Monday. Senator Newlands had planned for an adjournment of the Senate to allow the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee a full working day today.

Organized labor, led by Samuel Gompers, aided by Progressive-Republicans, are making a fight on the administration's plans and are expected to temporarily block the immediate consideration of the program. The Progressive-Republicans openly declare their purpose to conduct a filibuster against the measure, but the administration appears to have sufficient control of the Interstate Commerce Committee to insure a majority vote for the bill to make strikes or lock-outs unlawful for a period of four months pending investigation. The fight will then go to the Senate floor.

Children Will Mark

"Buffalo Bill's" Grave

By International News Service.

Denver, Col., Jan. 12.—School children of America, to whom Buffalo Bill was a hero, will contribute the money to erect a monument over his grave on Lookout Mountain.

Admirers of the famed scout in Denver and the East have suggested that no more fitting tribute be paid to the man who brought the last great West down to the present, than that the children of the schools should provide the funds to mark his resting place.

It has been suggested that no children be permitted to contribute more than 5 cents.

TO LEAVE MEXICO

Pershing's Column Will Be

Withdrawn—New Policy.

The withdrawal of General Pershing's "punitive" column from Northern Mexico, will follow close on the heels of the final conference of the Mexican-American joint commission next Monday, according to authoritative information in Washington last night. Complete plans for the withdrawal of the Pershing expedition have been framed by the War Department, and it is understood that the withdrawal of the troops will initiate a complete "pull out" policy toward Mexico.

The administration, it was stated, has reached a point where it is prepared to cease entirely all interference in Mexico, and to allow the contending factions, to work out their own salvation.

To Withdraw Support.

The plan, it is understood, contemplates the withdrawal of all support, moral or material from the Carranza government, and the maintenance of an attitude of strict impartiality as between the Carranza organization and the various groups of Mexicans opposed to it. The withdrawal of the Pershing troops is expected to be the first move toward this policy.

The State Department yesterday, in its investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of Louis D'Antin, who accompanied Mexican Ambassador Designado Arredondo to Mexico, received a report from Consul Williams at San Luis Potosi. The American attaché of the Carranza government was ill when he reached San Luis Potosi, and died of "cerebral congestion" an hour after attending a banquet. The burial, according to Consul Williams, was a hurried affair. Unless D'Antin's widow requests that the body be examined and examined, the State Department will take no further action.

HOUSE REFUSES TO DROP PROBE

Rules Committee Must Get
"Leak" Facts or Punish
Broker Lawson.

Demanding that Thomas W. Lawson supply what "leak" information he may have or be punished for his refusal, the House of Representatives yesterday directed the Rules Committee to continue its preliminary probe of the leak charges.

The House flatly rejected the proposal of the Democratic majority of the committee to bring the leak investigation to an end by laying on the table the Wood resolution providing for a probe by a special committee. After a stormy debate, the proposal to sidetrack the Wood resolution was withdrawn, and it was decided to vest the Rules Committee with ample authority to force Lawson to testify.

Members of the Rules Committee last night prepared a resolution which would give the committee all of the powers of a special investigating committee. The resolution will probably be passed today, and the committee expects to summon Lawson Monday.

Lawson Declined Names.

The decision of the House, and the overturn of the Rules Committee Democrats, grew out of Lawson's flat refusal to give the committee the names of a Cabinet officer, a banker and another high government official, who, he said, had mentioned to him as beneficiaries of the peace note "leak" by Representative Lawson declared that he was willing to tell the names to a special investigation committee if a "real" investigation was ordered.

The debate in the House developed that the Democratic leaders cannot depend upon a majority to stifle the "leak" investigation at this time, unless the Lawson incident is satisfactorily closed, and the "leak" charges are wholly disproved.

It was indicated that at least a score of Democrats will join with the Republicans in insisting that the inquiry either dispose of the charges finally and unambiguously.

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APACHE INDIAN SCOUTS FIND ARMY DESERTERS

Five Men Captured by Squad in Desolate
Mexican Hills.

(By the International News Service.)

Field Headquarters Punitive Expedition, Mexico (by telegraph to Columbus, N. Mex., Jan. 12).—Deserters from the army are not safe from capture and punishment even in the wild mountain country that divides Chihuahua and Sonora states.

At dusk last night, five men in soldiers' uniforms rode into camp guarded by twelve other soldiers. The five prisoners were tied to their horses, which were stabled in the camp. Their guards rode upon their mounts, but they, too, were fired on.

The prisoners were deserters who left camp five nights ago, taking their rifles and equipment with them. The morning after desertion a detachment was sent in pursuit. Heading this detachment were four Apache Indian trail riders. They picked up the trail of the deserters and held it like lions.

Two days later the missing men were captured without a fight. They were ninety-five miles southeast of this camp, far back in the mountains. They never imagined that they could be followed and overtaken in the wild country.

Philadelphian, Pa., Jan. 12.—Dr. William Taylor Comfort, professor of Romance languages at Cornell University, was chosen for president of Haverford College at a recent meeting of the corporation of the college.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 12.—A spectacular fire swept the Walnut Street Presbyterian Church, Thirty-ninth street, near Walnut, early today, causing a loss estimated at more than \$100,000.

Constantinople, via Berlin and Sayville wires, Jan. 12.—The Turkish war office statement on operations east of Kut el Amara makes no mention of the British claim that 1,900 prisoners were taken.

Chicago, Jan. 12.—Suit for \$23,000 against the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad and its receiver, E. H. Riedel, in the Federal court this afternoon on behalf of the Bankers' Trust Company of New York.

New York, Jan. 12.—"The uniform of the United States Navy must be respected," said Justice McInerney today when he fined Harry Traub, manager of a Brooklyn theater \$250 for excluding a sailor from a box because he was in uniform.

New York, Jan. 12.—Announcement was made today of the dissolution of the underwriting syndicate of New York and Boston bankers, floating a \$35,000,000 five-year 3 1/2 per cent Russian bond issue.

New York, Jan. 12.—An increase of 6 per cent in wages of all employees throughout the country, who were in its employ January 1, 1916, was announced by the Postal Telegraph Cable Company today.

Paris, Jan. 12.—German aeroplanes tried to attack Paris last night but were frightened off. It was first reported that a Zeppelin had been sighted but this proved incorrect.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 12.—A party of municipal executives and other officials of several Illinois cities who were here making an inspection of this city's paving, left here today.

Berlin (via Sayville wires), Jan. 12.—South of Lake Ochrid the allies attacked a position held by Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian troops but the position was maintained, said the German war office today.

New York, Jan. 12.—The Rev. William N. Ritchie, 71 years old, was arrested in his home in Brooklyn by detectives this morning charged with disposing of more than \$40,000 worth of morphine.

Plymouth, Mass., Jan. 12.—Fifty children escaped in safety from a primary school here this afternoon when fire broke out in the basement and destroyed the building.

London, Jan. 12.—Joyds today announced the sinking of the Danish steamship Taborg. The crew was saved.

Philadelphia, Jan. 12.—John McCormack, the tenor, today visited the naturalization department of the United States District Court and declared his intention of becoming a citizen of this country.

QUICKEST SERVICE TO BALTIMORE.

Every hour on the hour, Baltimore and Ohio. \$1.75 round trip, Saturdays and Sundays \$1.65.—A.E.V.

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PASTOR GIVES GIRLS 'LOVE COMMANDMENTS'

Man Who Wed 8,000 in Thirty Years
Has "Royal Road" to Bliss.

Special to The Washington Herald.

San Francisco, Jan. 12.—How to win a husband is told in the Rev. John H. Pierce's "ten commandments" for girls seeking the royal road to matrimony.

The Rev. Pierce, who preaches at Oakland, has married 8,000 couples in thirty years. Here are his commandments:

Plan your campaign with the wisdom of the serpent, conceal it with the silence of the clam.

Avoid all weaknesses about marriage. Tell with alluring helplessness the iron of self-sufficiency.

When a man declares "I shall never marry!" mark him for easy prey.

Be inwardly bold as a lion, outwardly timid as a fawn.

The loudest flattery is the silence of attention. When he speaks, listen.

Shun the rouge pot and the powder puff. Pick out a chemical affinity. Remember, oil won't mix with water.

Copy the cat, for it is squalid, and the dove, for it coos carelessly.

Remember that the supreme test of a man is a kiss. If he will not yield under its pressure, scorn him.

AUTOS HAVE 3 TANKS, BUT I IS A PASSENGER

Straw Should Be Handy for Joy Ride
in Virginia.

Now comes the two-tanked roadster, 1917 model.

It is the latest in automobile novelties and its habitat is Virginia and environs. Want to see one? Just stand on Aqueduct Bridge awhile; they shoot by every other minute. Just like any other roadster, only two tanks on the rear instead of one.

When the extra tank? Well, listen. When the roadster gets onto Virginia soil, he will very likely do one of two things. He will either take a soda straw from his vest pocket, stick it into the bung hole, and place his lips to the protruding end, or else he will lie flat on his back under the car and uncrack the tank outlet, catching the drip in his mouth.

But why? Oh yes, you must remember Virginia's "dry" now, boys.

Quickest Service to Baltimore.
Every hour on the hour, Baltimore and Ohio. \$1.75 round trip, Saturdays and Sundays \$1.65.—A.E.V.

JERSEY POWDER PLANT WIPED OUT BY BLAST; 21 MEN MAY BE DEAD

Terrific Explosions Destroy DuPont Munitions
Factory Covering 200 Acres—150
Homes Reported Demolished.

SHOCK IS FELT IN SIX STATES

Company's Armed Guard Surrounds Scene of
Disaster and Drives Back Firemen
From Nearby Town.

(By the International News Service.)

New York, Jan. 12.—The Du Pont Powder plant at Pompton Lake, N. J., covering two hundred acres, was destroyed by eight terrific explosions at about 9:30 o'clock tonight. One hundred and fifty houses of workmen were demolished. Whether all the occupants managed to make their escape is not yet known definitely.

According to late unverified reports, twenty-one men were killed by the explosion and a large number injured.

BLAST SHAKES SIX STATES.

The explosion shook towns and villages in six States. Glass in every village for a radius of twenty miles was shattered, causing hundreds of minor injuries.

All wires to Pompton Lake are down and the plant is surrounded by an armed guard of the company. The local firemen who rushed to the scene to fight the flames were not allowed to approach even the outlying buildings of the plant.

Series of Explosions.

Out of the mass of unverified reports that followed upon the explosions, the following facts were ascertained:

The first explosion took place in the ballistics building. This was followed by a larger explosion, which blew up the nitro-glycerine building. Then followed numerous explosions, which destroyed the buildings in which the fulminate of mercury caps and fuses are manufactured.

The night shift, consisting of 1,500 men, was at work when the first explosion took place.

As far as can be learned, the rest of the men employed in other buildings reached safety, though a great many of